

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 58 - Summer 2016

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NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - JUNE 4, 2016

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/Hoffman Hills have a great day planned for **National Trail Day, Saturday, June 4th**. * Activities are planned at the Red Cedar State Trail, Depot Visitor Center. The trail, always free for walking, will be free for biking on June 4th. Fishing is also free at Riverside Park. Simple Sports will give bikes a free safety check, and the Mayo Clinic will be available for bike helmet fitting. Free cookies and lemonade will be available from 10:00-2:00, and lunch is available for purchase for \$4.00.

Lots of fun activities are planned for the day. Penny, from the DNR, will have a booth set up with activities, games, and prizes. The Nature Center will be returning, scheduled for **9:00-10:00**, and was a huge attraction last year. Kids and adults enjoyed petting the turtle. Their program is on reptiles and amphibians, and is fun for folks of every age. From **11:00-1:00**, the Raptor Center will again present and bring their birds of prey. It is a real treat to see these birds up close and hear about their habits.

Geo-caching will be available from **10:00-2:00**. Some units will be provided, or bring your own. **Free fishing** will be available at Riverside Park. Poles and lures provided, or bring your own. Prizes will be provided. From **10:00-2:00**, the Girl Scouts will be available and provide the supplies necessary to make a bird feeder. The Mayo Clinic Wellness Program will be conducting demonstrations on the new exercise equipment at Riverside Park at **11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

The Chamber of Commerce will have the Depot staffed and DNR staff is available to answer any questions. Trail passes, annual dues as a Friends' member, and t-shirts can be purchased.

Although the activities end at **2:00 p.m.**, everyone is encouraged to get out and enjoy a walk or bike on the Red Cedar State Trail and to enjoy a hike at Hoffman Hills.

- Rain date is 6/5/16. The Raptor Center will return on 6/5/16, but other activities may not be available. Check the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills web site at [HTTP://redcedrhoffman.org](http://redcedrhoffman.org) for updated information or call the DNR at 715-232-1242

Looking forward to seeing everyone out enjoying National Trail Day at the Red Cedar State Trail.

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

Wildflowers, birds, frogs, fish, butterflies.... You can find just about anything biking the Red Cedar Trail or hiking the trails at Hoffman Hills Recreation Area this time of year. It's just a great time to get out and enjoy these wonderful properties. Again we had a great turn out for this year's tree planting at Hoffman Hills and taught a group of almost 50 Menomonie middle school students how to plant a tree and install tree shelters. This project takes a lot of hands and I really want to thank all the volunteers and the school students that helped out.

The DNR has a lot of projects we'll be working on along the trails again this year. Expect to see temporary construction work to replace culverts and clean out ditches near mile 1 ½, 3, and 10 on the Red Cedar Trail. We will really be focusing on replacing out dated signage along both the Chippewa River and Red Cedar Trails this year as well. Also, we will be busy installing some more riprap on the Chippewa River Trail near mile 22. We've almost completed all the trail work at Hoffman Hills but there will be some minor repairs to ongoing problem spots and will be looking at revamping some of the northern trails in a couple of years.

Hope to see everyone for National Trails Day and on the trail.

President's Report

Bill Kryshak

The birds are chirping and the days are getting longer so welcome to spring once again in the wonderful area we live in. I hope winter was good to you and that you are ready for another exciting summer of outdoor activities.

The Friends would like to thank you for your past support and hopefully the newsletter will excite you to continue supporting the organization by not only being a member but also by volunteering. We always can use help putting on some of our annual events plus volunteering for other events as the timing dictates. Each year we help host and support National Trails Day in June and the Candlelight Ski in January. Per participants at last year's events, both turned out great as the weather was just about perfect for Trails Day and the snow and temperature cooperated to make for a beautiful night for the Candlelight Ski.

This summer volunteers are ready to greet and help visitors as they walk into the Depot and if you would like to be part of that group of volunteers please let us know as we can always use help. Hoffman Hills is constantly going through changes that help it be more user friendly not only currently but also for its' future. Our financial support along with the physical labor of many of our members in partnership with other local organizations has allowed both trails to continue to grow and flourish.

We did a lot in the past year to help the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills and our goal is to continue to do everything we can to make these areas premier destinations for all of us. We ask for your support in being a member and also in volunteering - we do make a difference.

Happy summer and enjoy our wonderful resources.

Volunteering

Bill Kryshak

Last spring we put out a call for more volunteers whether it be to help at the Depot in the summer selling passes and explaining the trail to visitors, being part of events like National Trails Day or the Candlelight Ski, helping plant and maintain the tree projects at Hoffman Hills or grooming the ski trails in the winter and we were very pleased with the results. Usually we are talking a few hours per event and the consensus from our new volunteers was that it was fun. They met people they did not know, usually learned something they had not known before and finally they spent time at the Red Cedar Trail or Hoffman Hills which is not a bad place to be on any day of the year.

I am going to repeat myself from last year with the following.

Per Wikipedia - Volunteering is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served.

I hope you will consider becoming a volunteer for the Friends group in helping us make the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills remain the outstanding resources they are.

Vice-President Report

Ellen Ochs

Relying on last summer's success with our first year of full financial responsibility for trail pass sales, we Friends found that only minor tweaking was needed with procedures this year. That was a good thing, as our 2015 Summer Volunteer Coordinator could not continue in that job due to family responsibilities. While I have not found Candy's replacement, I have been fortunate in finding a full complement (and compliments are in order for both the stalwart experienced volunteers and the brave inexperienced ones, for stepping forward!) so that we can keep the Depot open weekdays for another summer. (The Chamber of Commerce staffs weekends and holidays.) We gathered for a training meeting on April 27th at the Depot, getting to know new members and the Chamber's people, plus their new Tourism Director Maggie Foote. One of the new bits we learned is that trail passes have gone up in price this year. Annual Passes are now \$25 and Daily Passes are \$5. Making change will be easier!

Recruiting next summer's volunteers is already on our minds. How about you? Parks and Trails are suffering from funding cuts, and these volunteer services really help - and it's fun to do! The Friends get a percentage from the sale of trail passes, which we use towards upkeep and improvements to the Trail and Hoffman Hills. Think about it!

Note: Ellen is also serving as Interim Volunteer Coordinator for this summer.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Flyen

On April 24, 2016, year to date (YTD) membership collections totaled \$1030 in comparison with \$625 last year at this time. YTD, we have collected \$200 in business memberships compared to \$0 collected at the same time last year. Business memberships are collected and then split evenly between the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. The only other revenue Hoffman Hills received YTD is a trail grooming donation in the amount of \$75.

As of April 24, 2016 we have a general operating balance of \$3308.79 and a Hoffman Hills grooming balance of \$4,183.77, with a total operating balance of \$7492.56.

Our 2014 Steward Grant has provided funding for striping the Depot parking lot, remodeling the inside of the depot, and a new sandwich board for event information. Remaining funding in this account, which is approximately \$1700, will be used to replace the depot door. The 2014 Steward Grant is a matching grant where the FRIENDS group donated \$2,500 and the DNR will match an additional \$2,500.

Lastly the Oak Savannah account, on April 24, 2016 has a balance of 2413.40. We will continue to use this money to support Hoffman Hills Oak Savannah.

Webmaster Report

Joe Hagaman

Check out the Friends website for more information about two of Dunn County's favorite recreational areas. The website averages 200 to 300 unique visits per month and our Facebook page has 187 "Likes". Previous newsletters are also on the site and a listing of all the new board members.

Friends website: redcedarhoffman.org

Friends Facebook Page: search for Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills and click the "LIKE" button.

Important Dues Reminder for 2016

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills is a non-profit support organization dedicated to enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities by sponsoring, promoting and funding many activities as well as participating in projects that help to maintain and improve the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. The Friends group derives its funding from dues paid by individuals and businesses, donations, grants and a percentage of trail pass revenues. These funds provide resources for interpretive programs, volunteer workdays and community events such as the Annual Candlelight Ski and National Trails Day. As a reminder, dues can be paid by using the form on the last page of this newsletter and mailing to the address indicate

Concurrent with National Trails Day on Saturday, the Chippewa Valley Nature Festival will be offering additional activities of interest to nature lovers. See the website at:

<http://www.chippewavalleynaturefestival.com> for a schedule of all activities. Of special interest are the two keynote speakers on Friday and Saturday evenings.

**7:30 pm Friday, June 3 : Dr. Karen Oberhauser,
“Dwindling numbers for an iconic insect: A conservation biologist ponders
moving beyond the documentation of declines”**

UW Stout's Memorial Student Center, Ballroom A and B

Dr. Karen Oberhauser is a Professor in the Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota, where she and her students conduct research on several aspects of monarch butterfly ecology. In Karen Oberhauser's presentation, she'll describe the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. She will then discuss threats to monarchs, and potential responses to these threats. Because conservation biology must be, at its essence, a science of hope, her focus is on positive changes as well as on the challenges posed by problems with multiple problems.

**7:30 pm Saturday, June 4: Curt Mein
The Land Ethic: From Wisconsin to the World**

UW Stout's Memorial Student Center, Ballroom A and B

Dr. Curt Meine is a conservation biologist and writer based in Sauk County, Wisconsin. He served as on-screen guide in the Emmy Award-winning documentary film *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* (2011). Meine has authored and edited several books, including the award-winning biography *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (2010) and the Library of America's definitive collection *Aldo Leopold: A Sand County Almanac and Other Essays on Ecology and Conservation* (2013).

As a guiding philosophy for our relationship with the natural world, the land ethic has deep roots in Wisconsin's conservation history. Curt Meine's presentation will trace that history, connecting the stories of Wisconsin's Native Americans, scientists, writers, educators, landowners, policy-makers, and citizen advocates. This can prepare us to ask the hard questions: How well are we living up to that legacy—in Wisconsin and beyond? What does the future hold for the land ethic as an evolving idea?

**Friends of the
Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills**

P.O. Box 628

Menomonie, WI 54751

Don't forget to get your annual trail pass



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)

Dues for 2016 (Jan. – Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Annual Memberships Include:

- Membership Card
- Newsletters
- Information on Activities

**Make checks payable to:
Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail
P.O. Box 628**

Check One:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Medium Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Large Corporation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Lifetime | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____